Tragedy in Thekkadi in Kerala

854. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether an unprecedented tragedy occurred and hundreds of tourists lost their lives in Thekkadi, Kerala State in the recent past; and

(b) pending enquiry, the studies made and the advance measures conceived and the consequential action ensured to avert this kind of major mishaps in future in all the tourist spots?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The unfortunate boat accident happened at Thekkadi on 30.09.2009 in which 45 numbers of tourist lost their lives.

(b) State Government constituted a committee consisting of representatives of various Departments to conduct an emergency audit of the motorized boats operating in the public canals and other water bodies in Kerala. Moreover, Government of Kerala have strengthened security of tourists in all tourism centers.

Travel advisories issued by countries

855. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any country or countries have issued travel advisories to their citizens not to visit India or any specific part of the country;

(b) the names of the countries which have issued such advisories in the last three years;

(c) whether Government has responded to such advisories;

(d) whether the issue of such advisories which affects India's tourism have been taken up with any Heads of the Governments; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (e) Travel advisories have been issued by various countries from time to time, advising their citizens to avoid travel or to take precautions while traveling to areas in the country which are temporarily disturbed. The Ministry of Tourism through its overseas offices and in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs and Indian missions abroad takes up the matter regarding lifting of travel advisories as and when issued by different countries to avoid any adverse impact on tourism to the country.

Sexual harassment of foreign tourists

†856. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn towards increasing incidents of sexual harassment of foreign tourists;

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.